

Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs.. 5A, 7, 8, 16. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figs.. 5A, 7, 8, 16. In Figs.. 5A, 7, 8, 16, earlier omitted references signs mentioned in the description have been added in red ink.

Attachment: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings on the basis that the drawings do not include certain reference signs mentioned in the description.

Replacement drawing sheets are submitted herewith, which show proposed drawing changes in red ink. The corrected drawings address the matters noted by the Examiner, so that the drawings are believed to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d). The Examiner's careful review of the drawings is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-4, 10-12, 15-18 and 20-25 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Charlton U.S. Patent 5,755,582. Claims 5-9 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Charlton.

Claims 13 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim, with an indication that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this response, claim 13 is amended to independent form, incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the Examiner's indication, it is thus believed that claim 13 is in allowable form, along with dependent claims 14 and 5-7.

The remaining claims are amended in a manner believed to patentably define over the references.

Claim 1 is amended to call for a latch arrangement for selectively maintaining the receptacle member in the closed position. The latch arrangement is defined as including a stop member on one of the base member and the receptacle member, and a movable latch member that is slidably mounted for lateral movement on the other of the base member and the receptacle member. The latch member is defined as being laterally movable between a latching position in which the latch member is engaged with the stop member to maintain the receptacle member in the closed position, and a release position in which the latch member is disengaged from the stop member to enable movement of the receptacle member between the open and closed positions. The latch member is defined as including a wedge member that is configured and arranged to engage the stop member and to move the latch member laterally from the latching position to the release position upon inward movement of the receptacle

member from the closed position, to enable the receptacle member to move outwardly to the open position under the influence of the biasing member.

The Charlton reference does not show or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1. In Charlton, the stop member 34 is maintained in the closed position against the biasing force of spring 50 by engagement of the end 96 of outwardly biased plunger 66 with one of a series of teeth 89 on an arcuate ratchet plate 88. When stop member 34 is depressed, a release pin 68 carried by plunger 66 is engaged within a notch 112 on a pivoting catch 102, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, which disengages the end of plunger 66 from ratchet plate 88 to enable stop member 34 to be raised to the open position. When stop member 34 is fully opened, a release rod or bar 74 carried by stop member 34 is moved into contact with the lower end of catch 102, as shown in Fig. 5. In this manner, release pin 68 is disengaged so as to enable plunger 66 to move outwardly under the force of spring 97, into contact with the lower area of ratchet plate 88. Subsequent return of stop member 34 to the closed position results in movement of ratchet plate teeth 89 along the plunger end 96, which maintains stop member 34 in the closed position until stop member 34 is again depressed as described above so as to maintain plunger 66 in the retracted position. It can thus be appreciated that the latch mechanism for selectively maintaining stop member 34 in the closed position contemplates a pivoting catch member that acts on a forwardly and rearwardly movable plunger, to selectively maintain the stop member in the closed position and to enable movement of the stop member to the open position.

In direct contrast, amended claim 1 specifically states that the latch member is laterally movable between the latching and release positions. In addition, amended claim 1 states that the latch member includes a wedge member that engages the stop member and moves the latch member laterally from the latching position to the release position upon inward movement of the receptacle member from the closed position. The Charlton reference contains no showing or suggestion of a laterally movable latch member as claimed, nor any suggestion of a latch member that has a wedge member which engages the stop member and that moves the latch member laterally from the latching position to the release position upon inward movement of the receptacle member from the closed position, as

claimed. This construction of the present invention provides a relatively simple latching arrangement that does not require the use of a spring or a retainer in order to disengage the receptacle member from the base and to allow the receptacle member to be moved outwardly to the open position, which is a significant improvement over the structure as shown and described in the Charlton reference.

For the above reasons, claim 1 is believed to patentably define over the Charlton reference. A review of the remaining references of record similarly fails to show or suggest the claimed subject matter, and accordingly claim 1 is believed allowable.

Claims 2-4 and 8-12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are believed allowable for the above reasons as well as in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the feature of the present invention in which the base includes an upwardly facing receptacle and the movable receptacle member has a cover that overlies the upwardly facing receptacle of the base when the movable receptacle member is in the closed position. Specifically, claim 15 states that the movable receptacle member is pivotable relative to the base member for movement between an open position in which the receptacle is exposed and a closed position in which the receptacle is concealed. The movable receptacle member and the base member are defined as being configured such that the upwardly facing stationary receptacle of the base member and the at least one receptacle of the movable receptacle member are laterally offset from each other. Claim 15 is further amended to call for a cover member that is carried by the receptacle member. The cover member is defined as extending laterally from the receptacle member, and as being configured to overlie and conceal the upwardly facing stationary receptacle of the base member when the movable receptacle member is in the closed position.

The present invention as defined in amended claim 15 is not shown or suggested by Charlton. Charlton simply contemplates receptacles such as 124 that are mounted to box 118, which is movable between open and closed positions relative to a housing 22. There is no disclosure in Charlton of receptacles mounted to the base member,

as claimed, nor any disclosure of a cover member that extends laterally from the receptacle member to overlie and conceal a base-mounted receptacle, also as claimed.

For the above reasons, claim 15 is believed to patentably define over the Charlton reference. A review of the remaining references of record similarly fails to show or suggest the claimed subject matter, and accordingly claim 15 is believed allowable.

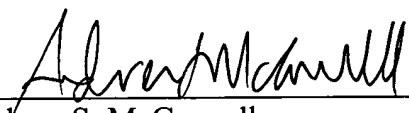
Claims 16-19 depend directly or indirectly from claim 15, and are believed allowable for the above reasons as well as in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Claim 20 has been amended along the same lines as claim 13, which was indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. For this reason, it is believed that claim 20 also patentably defines over the references, and is allowable along with dependent claims 21, 22 and 25.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 1-22 and 25, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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